

**GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**

Friday, July 21, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

This week, the average price Americans paid at the gas pump hit record highs – over three dollars per gallon. And with escalating violence in the Middle East adding to economic uncertainty, experts are predicting that prices will continue to rise in the coming weeks.

That's just unacceptable. It is time for the Bush Administration to take action. It's time for them to cap exorbitant oil company profits. It's wrong to continue to allow oil companies to rake in profits in excess of \$20 billion per year while citizens struggle to pay for a tank of gas.

Although no Governor has the power to control prices at the pump, we are not powerless.

Many months ago, I said we would make Michigan the state that makes our nation independent of foreign oil.

It's a natural role for us – after all, we are the state that put the world on wheels.

And our efforts are beginning to bear fruit.

In the last two weeks:

- I have signed legislation to provide tax incentives to people who use ethanol and biodiesel in the cars and trucks that they own.
- We have celebrated the grand opening of our state's first biodiesel production facility, a plant in Bangor using Michigan-grown soybeans to produce fuel for our vehicles.
- Ethanol plants are also beginning to pop up around Michigan. Production facilities in Lake Odessa and Caro are up and running and soon a new plant will be opened in Albion.
- I have also signed legislation providing incentives to service stations that install ethanol and biodiesel pumps and more stations have added pumps thanks to our partnership with Meijer and GM.

And today, there is more good news. Chrysler, General Motors and BMW are partners in a new joint venture to develop hybrid technology. Legislation I have signed this week will ensure that the Hybrid Development Center is creating jobs and developing this important technology right here in Michigan.

Yes, we are making progress, but the effort is just beginning. Our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs Fund will continue investing in alternative energy technology and jobs, our unique agriculture renaissance zones program will provide incentives for up to 15 additional ethanol plants and we will continue our gas pump inspections to ensure that you get the quantity and quality you deserve at the pump.

And I will continue to raise my voice on your behalf. I will remind President Bush that more than 275,000 Michigan drivers spoke out in support of a cap on exorbitant oil profits through our on-line petition. I will not be silent until we get action.

Thank you for listening.